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DENNIS' MOMENT TALLIES 10 POINTS ON 'ROAD TO DERBY' WITH IROQUOIS WIN; EASILY PASSES TWO-TURN TEST TO LAND BREEDERS' CUP JUVENILE BERTH

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, Sept. 14, 2019) – Albaugh Family Stables' **Dennis' Moment** is the early points leader on the 2020 "Road to the Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve" after the promising colt confirmed his runaway maiden victory with an easy 1 3/4-length win over **Scabbard** in Saturday's 38th running of the \$200,000 Iroquois (Grade III) for 2-year-olds at Churchill Downs.

Sent to post as the odds-on 2-5 favorite following his 19 1/4-length maiden win at Ellis Park on July 27, **Dennis' Moment** covered 1 1/16 miles over a fast track in a stakes record 1:43.58 to bank \$117,800 and 10 points on the "Road to the Kentucky Derby" point system that will determine the field for next year's 146th running of the Kentucky Derby Presented by Woodford Reserve (GI) on May 2, 2020 at Churchill Downs. The Iroquois was the first in a series of 35 select races on the "Road to the Kentucky Derby," which is now entering its eighth year.

The Iroquois also is part of the Breeders' Cup "Win and You're In Juvenile Division" Challenge and the win by **Dennis' Moment** earned the Kentucky-bred son of Tiznow a guaranteed spot in the starting gate for the \$2 million Breeders' Cup Juvenile (GI) at Santa Anita on "Future Stars Friday," Nov. 1. **Dennis' Moment's** \$60,000 entry fees will be paid by Breeders' Cup Ltd. and his connections will receive a travel stipend.

"Right here in my hand is the invitation to the Breeders' Cup," Albaugh said. "They officially delivered it, so that's exciting. His name came from his sire, Tiznow — the "now" — and we went with **Dennis' Moment**. We're very happy with him now, and they named him after me, which was a surprise. I don't want to get ahead of myself, of course, but getting 10 points toward getting into the Derby, that's a big help. We'll give this horse plenty of time. Dale Romans has been excellent on what's the timing, where do we go. We'll start looking at things next week, once we see how he came out of this race, although he looked like he's perfect after the finish."

Juggernaut led the field of 10 juveniles through early fractions of :23.35, :47.31 and 1:11.96 as **Lebda** pressured the pace just off his right hip with **Zyramid** covered up down on the inside and **Dennis' Moment** tracking from fourth in the clear on the outside. **Lebda** briefly poked his head in front of a fading **Juggernaut** midway around the far turn but a looming **Dennis' Moment** was making a bold three-wide move on the far turn to assert his presence. It was all over from there. The winner drew well clear in the stretch and his jockey, national earnings leader **Irad Ortiz Jr.**, geared down **Dennis' Moment** to a gallop inside the final sixteenth of a mile. **Scabbard**, who briefly checked his run into the far turn, recovered to rally down the lane but was clearly second best.

"This horse is speaking for himself, I don't have to build him up anymore," trainer Dale Romans said. "He's just an amazing animal. He goes out there and does it, his ears up, like he's just galloping around out there. The jock was shutting him down with a sixteenth of a mile to go, and he still finished in the time he did. He's something special.

"It's important going into these big races, to be versatile. That's what I was worried about today, I was concerned about him getting in a speed duel, with this being the first time around two turns for all these 2-year-olds. And it worked out perfect, he sat outside a horse that didn't bother him at all, and went three-wide, which is not easy to do on this racetrack and keep on going, and he kicked home good. We'll be going straight to the Breeders' Cup from here."

Added Ortiz: "He's good, he's a nice horse, he's done everything he's been asked to do, we'll see what's next (Breeders' Cup). He felt great, really great for a 2-year-old. He did everything right. I asked him to run and he was going really well. He had some more, but I saved it for the end. He was going to win going away, so I didn't ask him for any more."

Dennis' Moment paid \$2.80, \$2.60 and \$2.20 to give Romans his third win in the race. He won in 2013 with **Cleburne** and again in 2016 with **Not This Time**, who would go on to finish second to **Classic Empire** in that year's Breeders' Cup Juvenile.

Scabbard, ridden by **Corey Lanerie**, returned \$6 and \$4. **Lebda** was another 5 1/4 lengths back in third under **Trevor McCarthy** and paid \$6.

Letmeno, Rowdy Yates, January Won, Flute Maker, Automate, **Juggernaut** and **Zyramid** completed the order of finish.

Dennis' Moment's earnings total \$147,800.

Dennis' Moment, a \$400,000 yearling purchase at Fasig-Tipton's 2018 Saratoga Sale, was bred in Kentucky by **Tolo Thoroughbreds**. The Tiznow colt is out of the Elusive Quality mare Transplendit.

IROQUOIS QUOTES

Dale Romans, trainer of DENNIS' MOMENT (winner): "This horse is speaking for himself, I don't have to build him up anymore. He's just an amazing animal. He goes out there and does it, his ears up, like he's just galloping around out there. The jock was shutting him down with a sixteenth of a mile to go, and he still finished in the time he did. He's something special.

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Irad Ortiz Jr., jockey of DENNIS' MOMENT (winner): "He's good, he's a nice horse, he's done everything he's been asked to do, we'll see what's next (Breeders' Cup). He felt great, really great for a 2-year-old. He did everything right. I asked him to run and he was going really well. He had some more, but I saved it for the end. He was going to win going away, so I didn't ask him for any more."

Dennis Albaugh, owner of DENNIS' MOMENT (winner): "Right here in my hand is the invitation to the Breeders' Cup. They officially delivered it, so that's exciting. His name came from his sire, Tiznow — the "now" — and we went with Dennis' Moment. We're very happy with him now, and they named him after me, which was a surprise. I don't want to get ahead of myself, of course, but getting 10 points toward getting into the Derby, that's a big help. We'll give this horse plenty of time. Dale Romans has been excellent on what's the timing, where do we go. We'll start looking at things next week, once we see how he came out of this race, although he looked like he's perfect after the finish."

Corey Lanerie, jockey of SCABBARD (second): "He's done nothing wrong right now, he's a superstar. He wasn't encouraging him that much in the last part of the race, and it looked like won the way he wanted him to. My horse was finishing fast. It looked like (Dennis' Moment) had had it, so I was trying to sneak up on him a little bit in the middle of the racetrack. But my horse is improving every time. This was a big race for him; he's a good horse."

Trevor McCarthy, jockey of LEDBA (third): "I was very happy with my horse. He was in a great position, I had to move a little earlier than I wanted to because (Dennis' Moment) was pretty loaded. It was a privilege to ride him. He gave us a good run and I was very pleased with his performance."

LAZY DAISY OUTLASTS HIS GLORY IN GRADE II POCAHONTAS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, Sept. 14, 2019) – Southern California invader **Lazy Daisy** and 43-1 longshot **His Glory** took turns sharing the lead throughout Saturday's 51st running of the \$200,000 Pocahontas (Grade II) at Churchill Downs but it was Lazy Daisy who emerged as 1 1/4-length winner when the 1 1/16-mile race for 2-year-old fillies reached its conclusion. **Portrait**, the 6-5 favorite, finished another 3 1/2 lengths back in third.

Ridden by **Abel Cedillo** and trained by **Doug O'Neill**, Lazy Daisy ran 1 1/16 miles on a fast track in 1:44.89 to prevail over seven rivals for owners **ERJ Racing** (Erik Johnson), **Great Friends Stable LLC** (Scott Kaplan) and **Tom Mansor**.

Lazy Daisy broke fast from post position No. 4 and raced one off the rail as His Glory put pressure on the leader from the inside. After a quarter mile in :23.99, His Glory took a narrow lead down the backstretch. They crossed the half-mile marker in :47.90 and Lazy Daisy decided to take over again. His Glory dropped a half-length back and Portrait loomed three-wide as Lazy Daisy came away with the lead on the far turn with three furlongs to run. In the end, Portrait couldn't keep up but a determined and rail-riding His Glory wasn't done yet and re-rallied at the top of the stretch to give the winner a test. Lazy Daisy, however, proved best and edged away in the final stages.

"When I turned in the stretch, I put my filly close (to the inside horse), and she got a little intimidated," Cedillo said. "And that's where my filly kept going, and going. I got lucky there. Doug (O'Neill) has a lot of good horses, and he knows where to put his horses in a good spot, like a live mount."

Lazy Daisy, a Kentucky-bred daughter of Paynter out of the Bellamy Road mare Romantic Intention, banked \$120,280 for the win and guaranteed herself a starting spot in the \$2 million Breeders' Cup Juvenile Fillies (GI) on Nov. 1 at Santa Anita. The Pocahontas is part of the Breeders' Cup "Win and You're In" Juvenile Fillies Challenge Division, which means the winner will also will have her entry fees and a travel allowance paid by Breeders' Cup.

Lazy Daisy also is the early points-leader on the Road to the Kentucky Oaks after collecting 10 points. The Pocahontas was the first of 30 qualifying races to the Longines Kentucky Oaks (GI) to be run next May, and points were awarded to the Top 4 finishers on a 10-4-2-1 scale.

Lazy Daisy (3-2-0-0—\$174,880), saddled Saturday by O'Neill assistant **Sabas Rivera**, paid \$16.40, \$8.20 and \$4 as the 7-1 third favorite. His Glory, ridden by **James Graham**, paid \$30.60 and \$9.80. Portrait, with **Shaun Bridgmohan** up, paid \$3 to show.

The order of finish was completed by **Blood Curdling**, **Morning Gold**, **Lotta Ott**, **Shadilee** and **Addilyn**. **British Idion** was scratched.

The winner was bred by **John Elder** and **Paynter Syndicate**.

POCAHONTAS QUOTES

Abel Cedillo, jockey of **LAZY DAISY (winner)**: "When I turned in the stretch, I put my filly close (to the inside horse), and she got a little intimidated. And that's where my filly kept going, and going. I got lucky there. Doug (O'Neill) has a lot of good horses, and he knows where to put his horses in a good spot, like a live mount. The owner (Erik Johnson), we had a really good Del Mar meet, and he was really happy with the way I rode his horses, so he gave me the opportunity to ride this filly."

Shaun Bridgmohan, jockey of **PORTRAIT (third)**: "I don't think she gave me what she's capable of. At about the eighth pole, where I was getting into her a bit, she ducked in. She's a young horse (who's) learning."

GO GOOGLE YOURSELF SCORES SECOND STRAIGHT STAKES WIN; HOLDS OFF MOONLIT GARDEN TO WIN GRADE III LOCUST GROVE

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, Sept. 14, 2019) – Jay Em Ess Stable's homebred **Go Google Yourself** spurted clear at the top of the stretch and fended off late runs by **Moonlit Garden** and **Mylady Curlin** to win Saturday's 36th running of the \$200,000 Locust Grove (Grade III) for fillies and mares at Churchill Downs by a neck.

Trained by **Paul McGree** and ridden by **Brian Hernandez Jr.**, Go Google Yourself covered the 1 1/16 miles on a fast main track in 1:44.13.

Skeptic set the pace from the inside and led the field of a nine through comfortable early fractions of :24.44 and :49.17 with **Escape Clause** pressing from second and Go Google Yourself tracking in third. Go Google Yourself made the first run and took the lead at the head of the stretch as Moonlit Garden and Mylady Curlin waited for racing room. The runner-up and third-place finisher got clear and made up ground in the stretch but the winner was well in command and held them at bay in the final stages.

"The race before put a lot of confidence in her," Hernandez said. "She's just a typical mare, she's getting better with age. The last two races, she's stepped up her game. Now she's got a graded stakes in her."

Go Google Yourself, a 4-year-old Kentucky-bred daughter of Into Mischief out of the Deputy Minister mare Taunt, returned \$9.80, \$5 and \$3 as the 7-2 third betting choice. Moonlit Garden, ridden by **Florent Geroux**, returned \$7.40 and \$4.20 with even-money favorite Mylady Curlin another length back in third under **Shaun Bridgmohan** and paying \$2.20 to show.

"In the final steps, I was going to go by her, but (Go Google Yourself) just dugged in," Geroux said.

Escape Clause, **Rose of Malibu**, **Red Dane (ITY)**, **Pink Sands**, **Cosmic Burst** and Skeptic completed the order of finish.

The victory was worth \$119,040 to Go Google Yourself and increased her earnings to \$462,025 with a record of 6-4-3 from 17 starts. She recorded her first stakes victory in the \$125,000 Groupie Doll – the marquee race held during Ellis Park's meet – five weeks earlier on Aug. 11.

"We had a lot of confidence in her going in," McGee said. "The way she won at Ellis Park last time, by three lengths going away, she won pretty easy last time out to get her first stakes win."

The Locust Grove is named after the 1790 Georgian mansion in Louisville that played home to ancestors of Churchill Downs founder Col. M. Lewis Clark.

LOCUST GROVE QUOTES

Brian Hernandez Jr., jockey of **GO GOOGLE YOURSELF (winner)**: "The race before put a lot of confidence in her. She's just a typical mare, she's getting better with age. The last two races, she's stepped up her game. Now she's got a graded stakes in her."

Paul McGee, trainer of **GO GOOGLE YOURSELF (winner)**: "We had a lot of confidence in her going in. I think she's gotten better and her Beyers have shown that. The way she won at Ellis Park last time, by three lengths going away, she won pretty easy last time out to get her first stakes win. That's why we were confident going into today."

Florent Geroux, jockey of **MOONLIT GARDEN (second)**: "In the final steps, I was going to go by her, but (Go Google Yourself) just digged in."

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HEART-WARMING VICTORY FOR DIVINE QUEEN IN OPEN MIND

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, Sept. 14, 2019) – Carl Hurst and William “Buff” Bradley’s homebred **Divine Queen** rode the rail under Hall of Fame jockey **Calvin Borel** and easily beat **Ascot Day** by 2 ¾ lengths to win Saturday’s 11th running of the \$125,000 Open Mind (Listed) for fillies and mares at Churchill Downs.

The victory came just four days after Bradley, her 56-year-old trainer, underwent a heart procedure.

“I’m feeling a little better now, for sure,” Bradley said.

Divine Queen broke well from the starting gate in the field of six fillies and mares and set the pace from the inside along with a pressing **Headland** and a tugging three-wide **Ascot Day** as they entered the turn and clocked a first quarter-mile in :22.37. **Ascot Day** rolled out of the turn and poked her head in front at the top of the stretch but a calm **Borel** didn’t panic when they crossed a half mile in :45.65. **Divine Queen** drew even again at the eighth pole and then drew clear inside the final furlong to stop the teletimer in 1:09.40.

“I had a ton of horse every step of the way,” **Borel** said. “I thought we’d go a little faster early but they didn’t ... I gave her a good breather around the turn and (**Ascot Day**) opened up about a half-length. When I squeeze on her she just came home.”

For **Divine Queen**, it was her second straight September Meet stakes score at Churchill Downs. Last year, she prevailed in the \$100,000 **Dogwood** (Listed) for 3-year-old fillies. Overall, she’s won four of five starts beneath the **Twin Spires**.

“A homebred, it’s really nice to see them run big and to do it here at Churchill,” **Bradley** said. “Her whole family, they’re runners. It’s nice to see her get her second stakes win here.”

Saturday’s victory was worth \$76,725 and increased the 4-year-old filly’s earnings to \$323,814 with a record of 6-2-0 from 17 starts. **Divine Queen** is a Kentucky-bred daughter of **Divine Park** out of the Williamstown mare **Town Queen**.

Prior to the Open Mind, **Divine Queen** was second to **Go Google Yourself** in the one-mile **Groupie Doll** at Ellis Park.

“The horse ran big last time and I think the cutback to three-quarters sure didn’t hurt her any,” **Bradley** said. “I thought she might be sharp but we didn’t know what everybody else was going to do. **Calvin** sat chilly on her because he knew he had a bunch of horse. She got passed by two horses coming out of the turn but once he sat down on her she reengaged. She’s got a big heart. She’s a trier for sure.”

Divine Queen, the 5-2 co-second betting choice, rewarded her backers with mutuels of \$7.60, \$4 and \$3.40. **Ascot Day**, ridden by **Declan Cannon**, returned \$7 and \$4.20 with **Upset Brewing** finishing third one length back of the runner-up under **Gabriel Saez** and paying \$4.60 to show.

It was another 1 ½ lengths back to 2-1 favorite **Awestruck**, who was followed in order by **Honey Bunny** and **Headland**. **Meadow Dance** and **America’s Tale** were scratched.

Saturday’s race saluted the late **Eugene Klein**’s Hall of Fame filly **Open Mind**, the **D. Wayne Lukas**-trained winner of the 1988 Breeders’ Cup Juvenile Fillies (GI) at Churchill Downs who returned to the Louisville track the following spring to win the Kentucky Oaks. The New Jersey-bred filly was an Eclipse Award champion at ages two and three. A winner of 12 races and \$1,844,372 in 19 starts, the daughter of **Deputy Minister** was enshrined in Racing’s Hall of Fame in 2011.

OPEN MIND QUOTES

CALVIN BOREL, jockey of DIVINE QUEEN (winner): “I had a ton of horse every step of the way. I thought we’d go a little faster early but they didn’t – :22 and change and :46. That was awesome because she can go that fast any day. We had her freshened up a little bit. I gave her a good breather around the turn and (**Ascot Day**) opened up about a half-length. When I squeeze on her she just came home.”

‘BUFF’ BRADLEY, trainer of DIVINE QUEEN (winner): “I’m feeling a little better now, for sure. A homebred, it’s really nice to see them run big and to do it here at Churchill. Her whole family, they’re runners. It’s nice to see her get her second stakes win here. The horse ran big last time and I think the cutback to three-quarters sure didn’t hurt her any. I thought she might be sharp but we didn’t know what everybody else was going to do. **Calvin** sat chilly on her because he knew he had a bunch of horse. She got passed by two horses coming out of the turn but once he sat down on her she reengaged. She’s got a big heart. She’s a trier for sure.”

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